

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 17-30 are pending in this application. Claims 23 and 25-27 have been amended by this Amendment. Claim 30 has been added in this Amendment.

Claim 23 has been amended to clarify that it is the brominated monocyanates of formula I which may be free of fluorine. Support for this amendment can be found at page 7, lines 24-27.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to express the concentration of monocyanate of formula I in mol% per mol of the polycyanate polymer. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, lines 4-15.

Claim 27 has been amended to clarify its scope by deleting the limitation that the polycyanate copolymer has a glass transition temperature of from 100°C to 300°C and a refractive index of about 1.35 to about 1.60 at 1.55μm. This limitation now forms the basis for new claim 30. Accordingly, support for both the amendment to claim 27 and for new claim 30 can be found in claim 27 as originally filed.

Finally, Example 3 at page 10 of the Specification has been amended to replace C-(CF₃)₂ with CH(CF₃)₂. This typographical error as well as its correction would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art reading the claims, at least for the reason that it is well-known that a carbon atom is tetravalent. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 15.

Accordingly, these amendments do not add new matter.

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II. Objection to Abstract

The Examiner objects to the Abstract due to its length. See page 2 of the present Office Action. Applicants have amended the Abstract to conform its length to the requirement set forth in M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b) by deleting a portion of the original Abstract. Accordingly, Applicants submit the objection has been rendered moot and respectfully request it be withdrawn.

III. Objection to Specification

The Examiner objects to the Specification due to informalities with respect to Example 3. See page 2 of the present Office Action. Applicants have amended Example 3 at page 10 of the specification to correct an inadvertent typographical error with respect to the R group in compound I. Accordingly, Applicants submit the objection has been rendered moot and respectfully request it be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 23 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claim 23 is "confusing because it defines formula I compounds as being free of fluorine" and that "[t]his now leaves formula I compounds as not properly defined" because "[i]t hasn't been shown what is supposed to take the place of fluorine in formula I." See page 2 of the present Office Action. Claim 23 has been amended to clarify that the proviso only refers to the

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brominated monocyanates of formula I. Page 7, lines 18-29 of the present specification recite that brominated derivatives of the cyanate monomers may be used. Further, this passage gives an example of such a brominated derivative - that of a brominated formula IV wherein at least one of its variables, R¹ through R⁵, is substituted by bromine. Combining the teaching of such an example analogously applied to monocyanates of formula I with the teaching of formula I at page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 15, it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the fluorine of formula I in the at least one brominated monocyanate of formula I can be replaced by any of R', R", or bromine.

With respect to claims 25 and 26, the Examiner asserts that these claims "are confusing because the kind of amount isn't defined" and asks whether "applicants intend wt. % or mole % or something else." See page 2 of the present Office Action. Although Applicants disagree, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, claims 25 and 26 have been amended to recite "in an amount of at least ____ mol% per mol of the polycyanate copolymer." Accordingly, in claim 25 for example, it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that if there were 10 mols of a polycyanate copolymer, 1 mol of a monocyanate monomer would be used to form that polycyanate copolymer.

Finally, with respect to claim 27, the Examiner asserts that this claim is "confusing because it repeats the same phrase after the word 'or' as the phrase that preceded it." See page 2 of the present Office Action. Although Applicants disagree, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the subject matter of claim 27 has been divided into two claims. That is, claim 27 has been amended to recite merely that

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the polycyanate copolymer has a glass transition temperature of from 100°C to 300°C or a refractive index of about 1.35 to about 1.60 at 1.55µm, and new claim 30 has been added and recites that the polycyanate copolymer has a glass transition temperature of from 100°C to 300°C and a refractive index of about 1.35 to about 1.60 at 1.55µm.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments made herein render the rejections of claims 23 and 25-27 moot and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

III. Conclusion

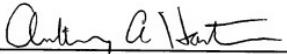
In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the pending claims, reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account no. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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